

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Mark Weston Fuller

Serial No.: 09/872,564

Confirmation No.: 2694

Filed: June 1, 2001

For: REMOVABLE KEYLESS TURNING
MECHANISM FOR LOCKS

BOX AF
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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Group Art Unit: 3676

Examiner: Michael J. Kyle

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by fax to Examiner Kyle at 703-872-9327, the after final fax number identified in the final office action.

2/25/03

Date _____

Keith 2. Jackson

Signature _____

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

On February 21, 2003, Examiner Kyle and Keith Tackett, Attorney for Applicant, discussed the Final Office Action and Applicant's Response to Final Office Action and Declaration of Mark Fuller. The Examiner Kyle stated that the Declaration was considered but did not support patentability of rejected claim 1 since the Declaration actually established that thumbturns that operate control lugs are known in the prior art. Mr. Tackett explained to Examiner Kyle that the express language of the Declaration states that control lugs that are retracted by a mechanism are known, however there is no admission in the Declaration that it was known to use a control lug in combination with a thumbturn. Mr. Tackett further explained that the known mechanism for retracting a control lug is a control key, and that known removable thumbturn cores are not held in place by a control lug, as evidenced by Figure 1 of US 5,291,767, wherein the removable thumbturn core 86 is held in place by a screw 95.

Examiner Kyle then responded that a control key placed in a removable key core is essentially a thumbturn that satisfies the limitations of rejected claim 1. Mr. Tackett

responded that a control key does not function as a thumbturn since the control key merely retracts the control lug and does not operate the lock, while a thumbturn operates the lock. Thus, a control key inserted in a key core does not satisfy the limitation of a thumbturn assembly as recited in claim 1. Examiner Kyle responded that he would further discuss claim 1 with his Supervisor, however, he remained concerned that claim 1 was too broad.

Examiner Kyle informed Mr. Tackett on February 25, 2003, that his supervisor approved entry of the Declaration of Mark Fuller and instructed him to send an Advisory Action maintaining rejection of claim 1. Mr. Tackett asked if the Advisory Action would further explain the grounds for rejection of claim 1 and Examiner Kyle said he was not planning to include any comments in the Advisory Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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